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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1839  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS CONAKRY 001217

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E.O. 12598: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [PTER](#) [EWWT](#) [GV](#)  
SUBJECT: GOG OFFICIAL CLAIMS REDUCTION IN SMUGGLING THROUGH PORT OF  
CONAKRY

REF: STATE 148540

[¶1.](#) (U) SUMMARY. The National Director of the Merchant Marine reported a reduction in smuggling through the port of Conakry due to improved internal procedures and a new container scanner. END  
SUMMARY

[¶2.](#) (U) On November 1, Econoff met with the National Director from the Office of the Merchant Marine, Ministry of Transport, Cheick Mohamed Fofana.

[¶3.](#) (U) Mr. Fofana said that the Port of Conakry has recently implemented mandatory identification cards for all truck drivers and apprentices at the port. He also confided that the container scanner, which was installed in May 2006, has reduced smuggling at the port because it is more difficult for smugglers to hide contraband. Mr. Fofana said that no illicit drugs have been uncovered since the installation of the scanner, which he attributed to smugglers' increased fear of detection.

[¶4.](#) (U) Highlighting future plans for the Port, M. Fofana stated that the Port needs to make large investments in order to expand operations, modernize its equipment, and improve security. While he did not directly ask for U.S. funding for these improvements, his intent was clear. He identified the mining sector as the driver for much of projected future demand for port services.

[¶5.](#) (U) The National Director noted several areas where further assistance from the U.S. would be helpful, namely, capacity building, surveillance boats, communications, and transportation.

CARTER